

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 10 Columbia River Compact March 16, 2005

Fisheries under Consideration:	Non-Indian Winter Commercial Salmon
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STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- The preseason spring chinook run size forecasts to the mouth of the Columbia River include returns of 254,100 upriver stock and 116,900 Willamette stock.
- Impact guidelines are 0.80% for commercial fisheries and 1.2% for recreational fisheries for upriver stock.
- The upriver spring Chinook count through March 10 at Bonneville Dam was 3 spring Chinook.
- Willamette spring Chinook are just beginning to pass Willamette Falls with 26 Chinook passing as of March 12th.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock.

Wild Winter Steelhead

- The preseason forecast was for a return of 27,000 wild winter steelhead to the Columbia River mouth. The management guideline is 2.00%.
- Passage at Willamette Falls totaled 2,676 as of March 12, 2005.
- Willamette wild winter steelhead typically represent 40% of the total wild winter steelhead return to the Columbia River.
- The Willamette run size will be updated in late March. Other winter steelhead populations have later run times and cannot be updated until mid April

COLUMBIA RIVER WATER CONDITIONS

- Temperature during March 1-15 has ranged from 41-45 F and has averaged 43 F, which is equal to the 10-year average temperature for this time of year.
- Flow has ranged from 120 to 143 kcfs with an average of 128 kcfs, compared to the 10-year average of 196 kcfs for this time of year.
- Turbidity remains at 7 feet.

FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

- Total impacts to date are 0.100% for upriver Chinook and 0.087% for wild winter steelhead. These impacts represent 16.7% of the mainstem commercial upriver spring chinook impact guideline (0.6%) and 4.4% of the non-Indian wild winter steelhead impact limit (2.00%).

<i>Chinook and Steelhead Data from 2005 Winter Commercial Season</i>							
Fishing Period	Gear	Deliveries	White Sturgeon	Total Chinook Kept	% Upriver Stock	Steelhead Handle	
						Total	Wild Winter
Winter Sturgeon Jan 18-Feb 25	9"	110	473	83	30%	0	0
Mar 1-2 (12 hr) + Mar 3-4 (12 hr)	9"	118	9	297	29%	79	58
Mar 8-9 (12 hr) + Mar 10-11 (20 hrs)	9"	215	32	673	27%	0	0
Mar 22-23 (12 hr)	9"	124	12	619	30%	44	21
Total		567	526	1,672	28.4%	123	79

Spring Chinook Fishery 2005																					
Preliminary Test / Observation Data*																					
									Chinook no VSI						Steelhead						
		#	Lower R.			UpRiver						Total Chinook	Ratio	Total Steelhead	Hatchery Wild Undetermined DNA count	%	%	%			
	Mesh size	Drifts	Clipped	No Mark	Undetermined	Clipped	No Mark	Undetermined	Clipped	No Mark	Undetermined		Chinook / Steelhead								
Date																			UpRiver Chinook	Chinook Marked	
Feb 27 Test	4.25"	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	3	2	1	0	0	100%	0%	0%
Mar 1-2 Obsv	9"	56	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.50	2	1	1	0	0	22%	29%	57%
Mar 3-4 Obsv	9"	57	9	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	13	6.50	2	0	2	0	1	13%	8%	85%
Mar 6 Test	4.25"	16	6	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	2.50	4	2	2	0	0	29%	10%	60%
Mar 8-9 Obsv	9"	53	29	11	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	46	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0%	11%	72%
Mar 10-11 Obsv	9"	48	20	5	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	30	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0%	11%	80%
Mar 13 Test	4.25"	10	7	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	13	1.18	11	5	6	0	6	46%	17%	75%
Mar 15-16 Obsv	9"	68	23	7	0	5	2	0	0	0	1	38	19.00	2	0	1	1	0	5%	19%	76%
Totals		323	96	34	0	15	6	0	4	0	2	157	6.54	24	10	13	1	7	13%	14%	74%
*ALL DATA IS PRELIMINARY. Only fish observed are reported. Catch from drifts made prior to on-board monitoring are not included.																					

Select Area Fisheries

- Preliminary landings for Select Area winter fisheries (February 16-March 13) include 89 spring chinook and 2 white sturgeon landed in Youngs Bay and 37 spring chinook landed in Blind Slough.
- Through March 13, the estimated upriver spring Chinook impact rate for Select Area winter fisheries is 3.0% of the Select Area impact guideline (0.1%).
- The final Select Area winter fishing period (second winter season extension) is scheduled to occur tonight in Youngs Bay (6 PM-6 AM) and Blind Slough (7 PM-7 AM).
- No additional winter season extensions are planned. Spring Select Area fisheries are scheduled to resume on April 21.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Joint Staff is proposing the following additional fishing period for the commercial fishery.	
Season:	
Option 1:	Set no additional fishing periods at this time and conduct test-fishing on March 20
Option 2:	9 PM Thursday March 17 through 5 AM Friday March 18, 2005 (8 hours)
Area:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1-4)
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina –B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.
Gear:	4¼” maximum mesh size restriction. Drift nets only. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Use of monofilament tangle nets not allowed. Optional use of a steelhead excluding panel hung between the cork line and the tangle net mesh. Excluder panel must be a minimum of 5’ in depth and not exceed 10’ in depth with a 12” minimum mesh size restriction in effect. Use of weedlines or droppers, used in smelt bobber nets, are allowed in place of a steelhead excluder panel. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of 5’ above the tangle net mesh. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon.
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.

Expected Catch:	1,000-1,500 spring chinook Expected impacts 0.032% - 0.048%
New Regulation	As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department observers or observers collecting data for the Department, when notified by the observer of their intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Use of recovery boxes will be required on all lethargic or bleeding salmonids.</p> <p>Each participant will be required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in this fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber. Each box shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.</p> <p>Lighted buoys required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers.</p>

- The proposed change to tangle nets is based on accrued impact rates for upriver spring chinook to date (~17% of 0.6% impact rate guideline), an increasing presence of upriver stock spring chinook, and the lower release mortality rate for this gear type.
- The short 8-hour season would serve as a full-fleet test of this gear type to determine chinook catch rates and relative abundances of steelhead.
- The option for postponing future fishing periods until next week following Sunday (3/20) test fishing considers that the most recent tangle net data collected on Sunday March 13 showed high steelhead catch rates.

NEXT COMPACT HEARING

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing for Monday March 21 at 2:00 pm, via telephone.